

# GEORGE BONNER JR. AND PHEBIE ALEXANDER BONNER



George Bonner, Jr., son of George Bonner and Margaret Edmundston Bonner.

Born August 4, 1850, in Gloscow, Scotland.

Married Phebie Annette Alexander January 4, 1878.

Died March 3, 1913, Midway.

Phebie Annette Alexander, daughter of Alvah J. Alexander and Elizabeth Soule Alexander.

Born January 3, 1857, East Mill Creek, Salt Lake County, Utah.



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Died December 15, 1944, Midway.

George Bonner, Jr., was born in Scotland, and came to this country with his parents when a child of five years.

They were converted to the Mormon Church and emigrated to America, the father coming in 1854 and settling in Pennsylvania where he obtained employment in the coal mines. His family joined him the following year. They remained in Pennsylvania until 1861 when they crossed the plains by ox team in the company of Captain Murdock.

Upon arriving in Utah the family came direct to Wasatch County and settled where they have since lived.

George Bonner received his early education in Pennsylvania and later from such other schools as then existed in Wasatch. Like all other boys of those early days much of his time was spent in assisting his father to support the family. He later took a contract for furnishing wood for the Ontario Mine at which he was quite successful. When he was about twenty-four years old, in connection with his brother William, he started a small store in one room of his father's house. The business improved so rapidly that they were soon able to build a small store. His brother remained with him for a number of years and they built up a very successful business, which George conducted alone for many years. They also branched out into livestock business.

Midway was George Bonner's home since he came here as a child with his parents and all his interests were centered here. He saw the town grow and develop and has himself been a large factor in bringing about the many improved conditions, giving freely of his time and money for the advancement of his community.

He was in all respects a noble type of self-made man. His record has been honorable and upright and he enjoyed a large circle of friends.

Phebie Annette Alexander Bonner was born in East Mill Creek, and had pleasant memories of a happy childhood there. Her first teachers were Mary Benedict and Liz-zie Neff.

When Mrs. Bonner was 14 years old the family moved away from Mill Creek and settled in Midway, where she continued going to school. Her mother, Sarah Wood, Ira Jacobs and Attewall Wootton were her teachers, she also attended writing classes in the evening taught by John Huber.

She attended Sunday School regularly

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which was the only organization for young folks at that time.

Mrs. Bonner loved and cherished her home and had much pleasure in her flower garden.

She was sustained in the Relief Society as second counselor to President Cynthia J. Wootton October 15, 1903. On November 16, 1913, she became first counselor to President Emily Coleman and had a continuous service of 25 years.

She was a charter member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

Children of George Bonner, Jr. and Phebie Annette Alexander:

John died in infancy  
Mrs. Ernest C. (Phebie) Dayton  
Mrs. Monroe (Elizabeth) Wilson  
Mrs. Albert T. (Margaret) Stewart  
Mrs. Archie D. (Florence) Buys  
Mrs. H. Lemard (Pansy) Giles.

## GEORGE AND MARGARET EDMUNDSTON BONNER

George Bonner, Jr., son of George Bonner, Sr., and Ann Travers. Born January 8, 1822, at Kiliver, Monaghan County, Ireland. Married Margaret Edmundston October 22, 1849, at Whitburn, Linlithgow, now West Lothian, Scotland.

Died May 5, 1905, Midway, Utah.

Margaret Edmundston, daughter of Thomas Edmundston and Christina Sutherland.



Born May 1, 1831, in Whitburn, Linlithgow, now West Lothian, Scotland.

Died December 23, 1920, in Midway, Utah.

George Bonner left his native land when he was fourteen years old and went to Scotland. Here he was married.

There was a branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at Croft-head and he and his wife heard the gospel and accepted it. They were baptized soon after.

On March 23, 1856, George sailed to America for the gospel sake, finding employment and working almost day and night he received enough money to send for his wife and three children.

They had many hardships and trials as they crossed the plains. They reached Utah 1861.

George had a strong testimony of the gospel throughout his life.

Margaret Edmundston Bonner lived in Scotland until she emigrated to America on November 8, 1856. Her husband had gone eight months previous. She sailed the stormy Atlantic ocean in the winter months with her three small children, George, Christiana and William. It took ten long rough cold weeks but her great faith and courage never faltered. She was very happy to be reunited with her husband again.

But it seemed as if their journey had just began, because they soon made preparation for their trek across the unknown plains to the land of Utah.

Margaret had two babies crossing the plains, Margaret and Ann. Many hardships confronted them on their way to their new home, but their faith and the love for the gospel carried them forward.

Three more children were added to their union after reaching Utah and settling in Midway.

Margaret lost her eye sight and for many

years was blind, but never complained and was happy, kind and sweet. She always thanked her Heavenly Father for the gospel and this good land.

Children of George and Margaret were:  
George Bonner III, married Phebe Alexander

Christina Bonner, married Albert McCurdy

William Bonner, married Sarah Eliza Bronson.

Margaret Bonner, married Steven Shelton  
Ann Bonner, married Jess Nelson

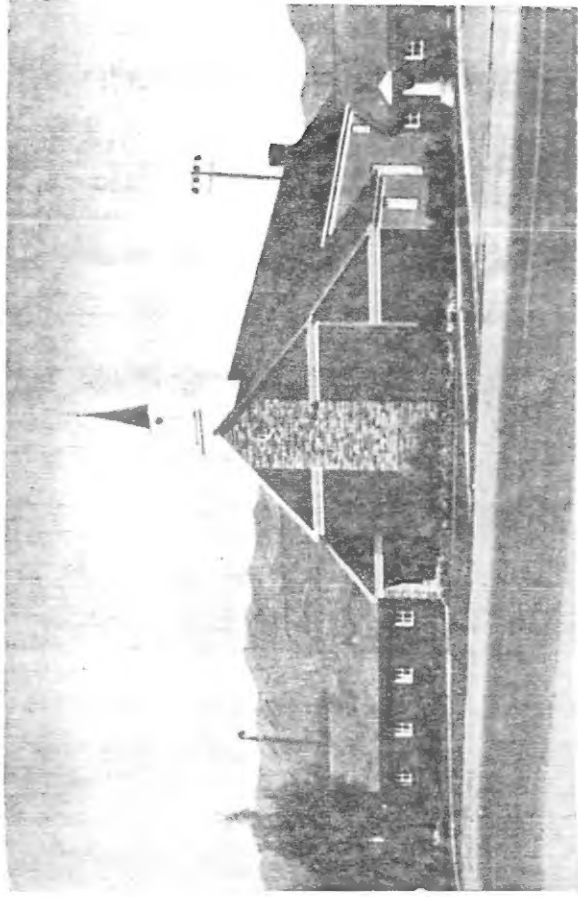
Dessie Bonner, married Alvah Alexander

Thomas Bonner, married Ada Alexander

Mary Jane Bonner, married Tipton Epperson

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1885, which became the recreation hall of the new chapel, adding many more rooms and improvements. After 16½ months of diligent work—serving of dinners, bazaars, programs, etc.—the building was dedicated July 16, 1956 at a total cost of \$112,500.00. The completion of this great project in so short a time was due to the untiring efforts of Bishop Kohler who worked on the project every day. The unity and support of the people were very commendable and now a beautiful chapel stands as a monument to their efforts.



The Midway Second Ward Chapel, which incorporated portions of the original ward building. The remodeled and enlarged structure was completed in 16½ months of work and dedicated July 16, 1956.

### THE WELFARE PROGRAM

About 1898 George Bonner, one of the early settlers decided a building was needed for amusements. Such building was constructed of native rock, had a stage for dramas, plays and concerts. It was heated by two potbellied stoves. It had a very fine floor for dancing. The walls echoed with laughter, and fine times were had dancing the Quadrille, the polka, and waltz. Midway had a good orchestra, and people came from far and near to enjoy the fun.

Later the Church purchased the building from Mr. Bonner, and it was used for amusements under supervision of an Amusement Committee until the erection of the Town Hall.

During the depression of the 1930's the leaders of the Church could see the necessity of some kind of a program to help people in times of dire need such as sickness, accident, work stoppage, or strikes, to say